The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY • FRIDAY OCTOBER 9, 2015 • VOLUME LIX NO. 7 • SINCE 1965

United by the Page: 7 Days, 7 Pages

By Nicholas Santos
Managing Editor

Photo Courtesy of Nicholas Santos

A single full "Bible" copy of the Saint John's Bible is made up of seven volumes. Saint Leo University is currently in possession of two volumes in the "Heritage Edition" set.

Pope Francis, the current and 266th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, is currently embarking on a historic journey to the United States which began on Sept. 28. In celebration, anticipation, and preparation a week prior to the Pope's visit, institutions all around the world joined together in a rather metaphorical way – the 7 Days, 7 Pages Event. Every day from Sept. 21 to Sept. 28, the seven days leading up to Pope Francis' arrival, each of these institutions displayed a different page representing key scriptures and illustrations from the Saint John's Bible. Saint Leo University was one of these institutions.

"This simple act of displaying the same pages across the country by churches, schools, libraries, hospitals, and homes…will bring together people from across the country in communion with God in the days leading up to and during Pope Francis' visit," reads the Saint John's Bible official website.

According to the Saint John's Bible official website, the Saint John's Bible is the result of a "15 year collaboration of scripture scholars and theologians" from around the world. The Bible itself is a significant presence as both a work of art representing divine, religious inspiration, and as a labor of love from countless dedicated individuals. Filled with handwritten scriptures and detailed illustrations, the Saint John's Bible aims for a more contemplative and mesmerizing effect on its readers. With its roots in Saint John's University and Abbey, located in Minnesota, this contemporary Bible was originally completed in 2008, with various volumes and editions being made.

"The Saint John's Bible…is the first handwritten illuminated text of the Bible from a Benedictine abbey since roughly the 15th Century," said Stephen Okey, Assistant Professor of Religion.

Saint Leo University, for its 125th Anniversary Year, received two volumes of the Saint John's Bible on loan: "Pentateuch" (the first five books of the Old Testament) and "Gospel & Acts" (the gospels and acts by John, Luke, Mark, and Matthew). These two volumes together are designated as part of the "Heritage Edition," which, according to Professor Carol Ann Moon, Reference and Instructional Outreach Librarian, is "a full-sized facsimile (copy) of the [official] Saint John's Bible." These two massive volumes, each one over 1,150 pages long, are currently on display in the entrance lobby of the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library, despite the end of the 7 Days, 7 Pages event on Sept. 28.

The "Heritage Edition" is not the only version of the Saint John's Bible; other institutions received and displayed different versions. For example, the Library of Congress (the first federal cultural institution in the United States)

What Does Saint Leo's President Plan for the School?

By Jonah Robertson and Erin Gaylord
Editor-in-Chief
Online Operations Editor

Dr. William J. Lennox, Jr., the new president of the university has served and retired as a three-star lieutenant general in the United States Army; he served a total of 35 years. In 2001, he became superintendent of the United States Military Academy. He remained there until 2006 when he became senior vice president at Goodrich Cooperation.

Many students, faculty and staff, have questions and concerns about the new president and his plans for the university.

Concerning academics, Dr. Lennox said, "We've got to take a look at where we are and what people want." He continues, "I think we're going to do liberal arts, we're going to do cyber, we're going to do MBAs, across the board. People shouldn't be so wed to one area that they close their minds to other opportunities. We'll expand where we have to, and we'll rely heavily on those like Dr. Nostanski in the future. I want to get you jobs, too." Later on he said, "Our students are going to ask for certain things and those are the things that we've got to take a look at.

Besides academics, Dr. Lennox has plans to expand the campus and renovate some other the older residence halls.

"As most of you know, we've already bought some land to the West, and we're going to take a look at how to develop that […] and I know as we do that we are going to look at some things like [the] dinning facility getting a little bit crowded, residence halls, some of them are getting a little bit old," said Dr. Lennox, "Some of the residence halls need a lot of work right now. Marmion and Snyder should be upgraded, and that's certainly part of the plan."

Dr. Lennox gave a lot of credit to Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr., the 9th and last president of the university.

"I want to continue to develop Saint Leo; Art Kirk did a fabulous job. He took us from very tough times in the 90s to where we are today. I think since 2008 I've seen a lot of development in terms of the buildings, the expansion with the numbers of people coming in and recognizing Saint Leo as a major university, I think, has grown, and I want to continue to do that."

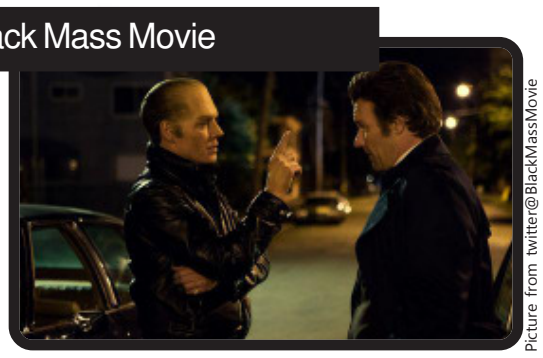
Along with expanding the campus, Dr. Lennox wants to work on the Saint Leo centers and online.

"We have to continue to grow, and that means to grow here on campus but that also to grow the centers and online…I'd like to reach out to people where they are," said Dr. Lennox, "[I want to] offer people the services they need at the time they need it.

Continued on Page 4

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

Black Mass Movie



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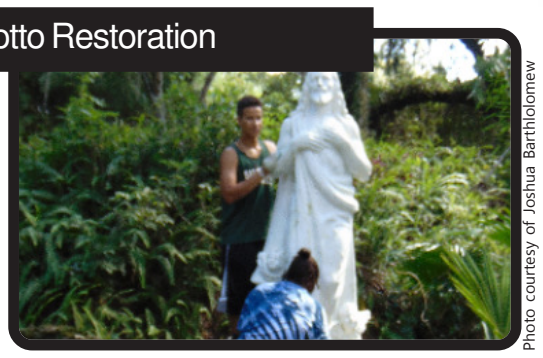

Photo courtesy of Joshua Barthlolomew

Dramaturgy Professor

Photo Courtesy of Rikki-Ann Hussey

Editorial

Should We Keep Funding NASA?

By Brian Cerosky
Contributing Writer

Those brave enough to enter the black void of space over these past few decades are nothing short of pioneers, unknowingly developing a path for corporate exploitation of space. NASA itself, along with the Soviet Space Program, can also be seen as the first entrepreneurs for what is becoming a lucrative business venture for men like Elon Musk, David Thompson, and Jeff Bezos. These men are all CEOs and founders of private space companies with aims to explore and exploit outer space.

Since the start of the shuttle era, public support for NASA has been slowly waning. Many Americans are curious as to what the return investment is for their tax dollars spent on exploring space, and have been given what they believe are sub-par answers to their questions. Elon Musk, along with his company: SpaceX, have always been looking for the profit to be had from what space has to offer. SpaceX, being private, does not run on tax dollars, and thus the average American is not affected by what the company fails or excels at.

Musk is the CEO and founder of SpaceX, a private space company that has been aiming to build reusable rockets that can carry supplies and men to the International Space Station as well as decrease the cost and increase the reliability of space travel. Musk himself is the CEO and founder of Tesla Motors, the founder of PayPal, and is the chairman of SolarCity, all being recent start-up companies that have seen consistent success over the past ten years. Musk one day seeks to colonize Mars and has worked with NASA in the past to make the dream a reality.

Some people support sending people to explore Mars further, but others feel that it is a waste of time and resources.

"Human exploration is not needed," Dr. Shawn Weatherford, Assistant Professor of Physics, said; "The public might be more supportive of NASA if they just conducted basic research."

Weatherford makes a bold statement concerning publicly funded space exploration. NASA was responsible for landing men on the moon and is determined to continue tackling the dark unknown head on by building and launching more probes, but some people think NASA is being stretched too thin. The US government has not been funding the institution like it has in the past, but NASA is proposing massive undertakings that could potentially stretch their employees and budget to the limits. Should this be a sign that NASA should step back and allow private companies to conceive and execute large, expensive ventures? Why should the public be concerned with something they cannot take advantage of?

The answer lies in the simple truth that we have just one planet, Earth, which we can call home. Climate change is more than an assumption, or some sort of pseudo-science to get people to buy solar panels. The consumption of fossil fuels is pumping more and more carbon into the air, which is already causing catastrophic effects on our oceans and atmosphere. The time is now for the people of Earth to save the planet, or find another planet to live on. Many scientists already agree that the damage that has been done cannot be reversed or halted. The obvious thing to do would be to further fund innovations in space technology to hopefully have the power to colonize another world to ensure the survival of the human race, whether that be done publicly or privately.

Both public and private institutions have their purpose, and for more than 20 years have worked side by side to achieve their goals. NASA's ambitions may not be the same as private companies, but they both want to innovate and make space travel feasible and cheap. They also want to explore the unknown, and further expand our knowledge about the universe. The bottom line is that we need NASA just as much as we need private companies. Whether NASA should be used for basic research or massive projects, we still need NASA to do what they have always done; explore and understand the cosmos for humankind.

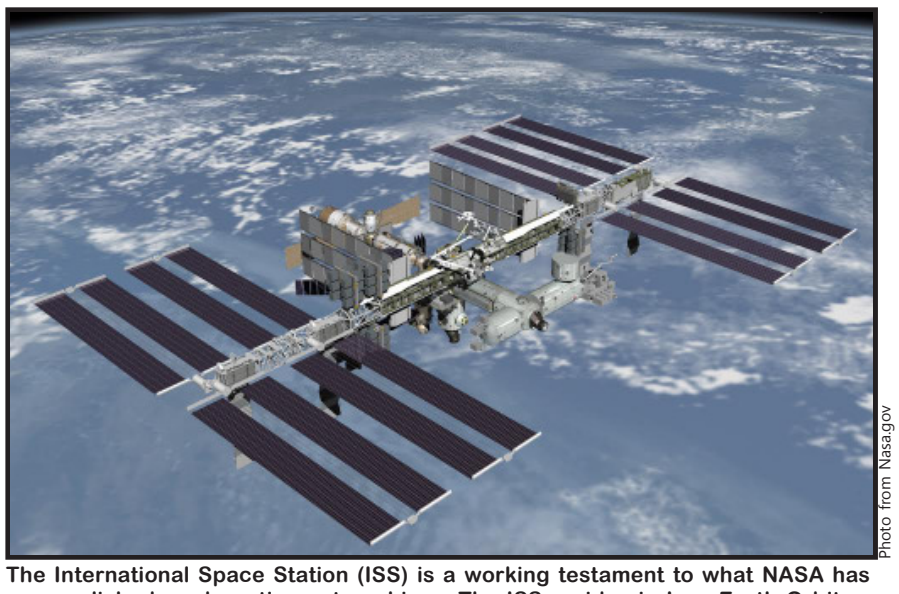

Photo from Nasa.gov

The International Space Station (ISS) is a working testament to what NASA has accomplished, and continues to achieve. The ISS resides in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) alongside most man-made satellites.

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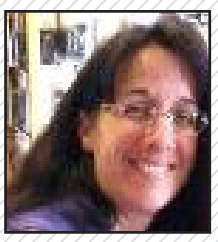

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Science

A Change to Human Evolution

By Nicole Alvarez and Kristen Collins
Campus News Editor
Contributing Writer

Human evolution has just gotten a lot more complicated with the discovery of a new species in South Africa, and cave divers Steven Tucker and Rick Hunter are the source. The findings that came about from their journey of cave diving has brought about the unveiling of *Homo naledi.* With its unusual combination of features and its unknown place in the evolution of humanity, *Homo naledi* is stumping researchers in where exactly it is located in the timeline. Another question and discussion are what exactly "the dawn of humanity" has in store for the future and the past of humanity.

South Africa is known as the Cradle of Humankind, where the first uncovering of humanity started. On Tucker and Hunter's journey through Rising Star, a cave system 30 miles northwest of Johannesburg, they stumbled across *Homo naledi*. Its specific location was constricted further in the cave system because of a narrow tunnel called Superman's Crawl – since one cannot pass through without carrying the pose of the man of steel in flight. Lee Berger, a paleoanthropologist (anthropologists who study ancient human remains) who commissioned many of these findings took teams of archeologists to find more pieces of the human fossils. To speed up the research and ability to inform those in the science field about the discovery, 50 people studied the sets of bones in a six week period of time.

The overall haul-in for all of the bones came in with fifteen partial skeletons, varying from infant to elderly. There were four partial skulls – thought to be two male and two female – and with the teams of researchers reconstructing the bones, there were a mesh of shocking findings. The skeletons appearance have apish shoulders, a flared pelvis, and a skull that indicates the brain size is half the size of a human's, while the bottom portion of the pelvis is modern and human-like. *Homo naledi's* upper features are similar to apes while its lower features are similar to humans, making this species a transition species.

Unfortunately with *Homo naledi* being revealed in a cave underground, there are many issues about the approximate age of the skeletons are. While most discoveries are carbon dated and dated through the use of layers of rocks and the location of the bones, having *Homo naledi* within a cave makes it exceptionally difficult to put at date to it. The possibility of falling into the cave from varying time periods to turning the cave into a burial ground centuries later makes scientists unable to put the *Homo naledi* on the human evolution timeline until another more solid discovery of other *Homo naledi* bones can be found.

With *Homo naledi* not yet having a spot in chronological listing of the human evolution, some of those that have been discovered go as following: *Ardipithecus ramidus*, *Australopithecus afarensis*, *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, *Homo neanderthalensis*, and finally *Homo sapiens*.

Ardipithecus ramidus is estimated to be 4.4 million years old and was first discovered in Ethiopia in the 1990s. Its bone structure indicates how this species is tree-climbers with partial bipedal behaviors. There is little difference in size between the male and female bones that were found. With sharp canine teeth prevalent in the skeletal reconstruction, this species is the earliest ancestor of the *Homo* genus since it is ape-like in appearance.

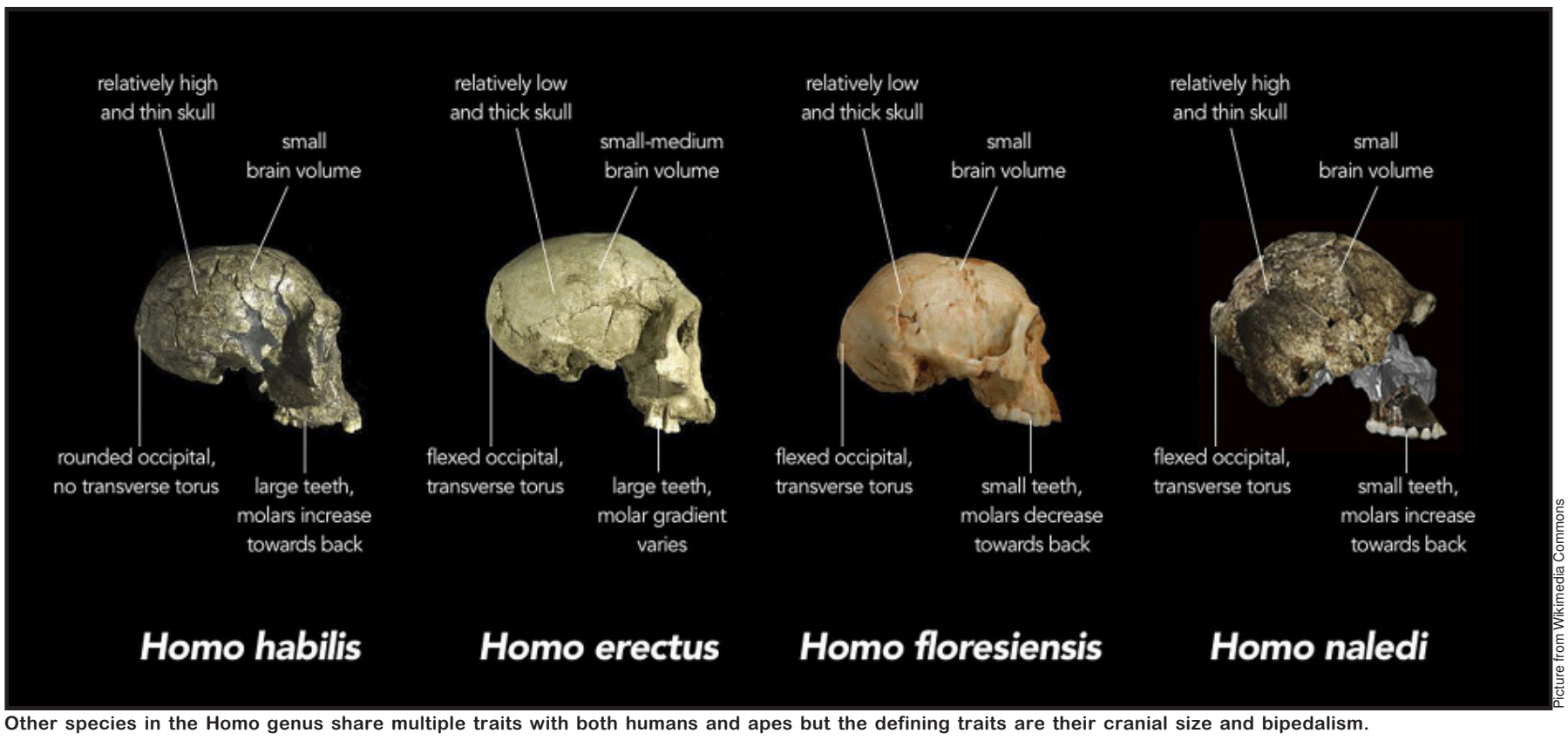
Australopithecus afarensis is estimated to be 3.9-2.9 million years old and the first skeleton found was named "Lucy" when it was discovered in East Africa. Appearance-wise, "Lucy" has both human and ape characteristics: with an ape-shaped face and long, strong arms speculated to be used for climbing trees. Its structure allows it to survive on both the land and in the trees, and its brain size is a third of that of a human brain. *Australopithecus afarensis* is extremely important to the species tree since it is the final branch before the path diverges into the *Australopithecines* and the *Homo*, though if *Homo naledi* is categorized in this period then both of these branches will be important to the split and divergence of the genus.

Stepping away from the *Australopithecines* branch, the first of the *Homo* branch is the *Homo habilis*, which is estimated to be 2.8-1.5 million years old. It diverges from the other branch because of small details that bring it closer to the modern human bone structure. Smaller teeth rather than teeth associated with apes and chimpanzees is the major difference since its structure and features are still very primitive with long arms.

Homo erectus is estimated to be 1.9 million years old to an uncharted gap between its overall estimation. One specific skeleton is nicknamed "Turkana Boy," its body is similar to a modern human, but with some exaggerated features. *Homo erectus* has elongated legs and short arms with a stubby torso to go with this mismatch ensemble of humanlike body parts. Through looking at other fossils at this time period and the wear-and-tear of the bones of this species, it is evident that they are recorded to have the earliest usage of tools, such as creating hand-axes.

Homo neanderthalensis is estimated to be 200,000-400,000 years old. Ironically enough, these are the species that have been dubbed 'Neanderthals' in pop culture from movies to fiction. Thought to have inhabited areas of Eurasia, the 'Neanderthal' has an appearance that is shorter and more muscular than the modern human. Through skeletal reconstructions, the brain is also slightly larger.

Finally the species within the evolutionary chart that is what humans are today are *Homo sapiens*, having an estimated time of 200,000 years to the present time. As evolution has shown, humans have went through a great deal of changes to become the species it is today. And whether it is just speculation or reality, the human genus continues to expand with new findings and unearthing ancient bones. While *Homo naledi* is still not completely classified, it had brought up many questions for scientists, and could have the potential of changing the outlook of the ever-expanding evolutionary chain.


relatively high and thin skull
small brain volume
rounded occipital, no transverse torus
large teeth, molars increase towards back
Homo habilis
relatively low and thick skull
small-medium brain volume
flexed occipital, transverse torus
large teeth, molar gradient varies
Homo erectus
relatively low and thick skull
small brain volume
flexed occipital, transverse torus
small teeth, molars decrease towards back
Homo floresiensis
relatively high and thin skull
small brain volume
flexed occipital, transverse torus
small teeth, molars increase towards back
Homo naledi

Picture from Wikimedia Commons

Other species in the Homo genus share multiple traits with both humans and apes but the defining traits are their cranial size and bipedalism.

Campus News

Dr. Lennox Interview

Continued from Page 1

I'm tired of people asking me, 'where is Saint Leo?' The answer is we're in your home or wherever you want us. That's something I'm going to work on."

Dr. Lennox also wants to reach out to the military, so the soldiers can earn degrees in whatever way works best for them.

"We are looking at expanding to other military bases and knock on some doors saying 'We're Saint Leo, and we do this.' And don't forget the military moves from place to place so the more places we are at it benefits them in the sense that they can resume their degree, and they can now if it's online, but [this way] it's easier if they are used to going into a class room," said Lennox.

Later on Dr. Lennox talked a little about himself and his background.

"I've had a military background, a business background, and an academic background. I look forward to working here." He also said, "I had a great experience with literature and philosophy in my last couple years, and decided I wanted to go back and do that as part of the career pattern. I tell students now to keep their minds open. Just because you major in something doesn't mean that that's going to be your life. One of the statistics I've heard is 50 percent of people who major in an area never work in that area. Just be aware of that; you're not locked in, you've got a great education here at Saint Leo, you'll be able to do anything you want with the leadership, the commitment, the ethics you get here; the value system is almost as important as the academics."

Dr. Lennox also wants to reach out to the alumni and get more people involved.

"We've got to get people to start thinking that they can be a part of Saint Leo. That's what I will try to do. I want [the alumni] to feel like they can be a part of Saint Leo in the present and help the current students to have a better experience. I think that's very important," said Lennox; "we want to, first of all, get [the class of 1967] back together again, celebrate [their 50th anniversary], but also tie them with the University and tie them with some of you. I think getting them to know the current students is important."

Although Dr. Lennox wants to get more people involved, it is not a pressing need.

"[While] so many colleges are on the brink of disaster, we're not. We're growing and we want to continue to do that," said Lennox.

Dr. Lennox wants to look at more than academics and campus development.

"What I would like to do is develop in mind, body, and spirit. I think there are different things that fall under those categories. Mind would certainly be the academic, the body might be the teams, or the physical facilities like Bowman, and the spirit would be the S.E.R.V.E. trips and things where we're doing to outreach," said Lennox.

Dr. Lennox also stressed a lot about the Raise Your Hand Campaign. He wants students to know that they can get help with anything. No one should feel lost or stuck. There are people on campus to help.

"[Matriculation was changed this year to] introduce the new students to the different parts of the Learning Center and the Student Center where if you get into trouble, get over into Kirk Hall, raise your hand, get some help in whatever area you need help: financial, being away from home, falling behind in academics. We've also extended that out to faculty and staff so that if they see somebody that's having a problem, we've told them to raise their hand, and get that person the help they need," said Lennox.

The university's tuition is something that Lennox prides himself on, particularly in regards to how valuable a deal it is for the students. He feels that students get a fantastic education for one of the lower tuitions in the area. He also wanted to make it clear that the school has no intention of increasing tuition dramatically in the coming years.

"We want to keep the low tuition compared to everybody out there. It's really a bargain, and we've got to advertise that bargain. We want to get in the academic venue additional funds to give more financial aid and make it accessible for everybody. When we bring you in, we expect you to graduate," said Lennox; "if it's the financial aid aspect, then we ought to be able to help you in that regard. We're focused on the student, that's the strength of Saint Leo. So we developed some inaugural scholarships that we want to give out to people. Hopefully that'll help people retain too because student success is important."

When asked what he thought of the school's core values, and whether they were important, Lennox said, "I think they're critical. I think education is what occurs in the classroom; but it goes beyond that, and Saint Leo offers you not only the education, but the friendship of the faculty. We're small enough in some ways to get to know the faculty, to get to learn from them inside and outside of the classroom. I love the fact that we put the core values everywhere on campus. I think they're so critical. You can't be a leader without those values."

Lennox also feels the international community at the university is important, because it allows American students to learn about different cultures, and it gives students from around the world a chance to learn about America. Especially in relation to globalization, this worldly education is particularly important.

"The world that we have right now is so interrelated," said Lennox; "everything that we do as a country is tied to what's glint on in China, in Europe; across the world. If our students don't come out of Saint Leo with an understanding of that, then we've failed."

The athletic teams can also look forward to some participation from the school's new president. He joked that he can be quite dangerous at sporting events, as he gets very passionate about his school's teams. He then talked about how difficult it is to be an athlete, with how much they have to balance, and how it really matures a person.

"I've seen our athletes. They're pretty darn good, not only in the athletic fields, but also in school," said Lennox; "they carry a 3.2 average, which is significant. And number 8 among 300 colleges. Pretty significant when 13 out of 19 teams went to the NCAA, so we're doing extremely well in that area."

Lennox had some advice for students so that they could help lead the university along with him.

"I do expect you to be leaders and to learn leadership while you're here. Stepping out and doing something is how you become a leader. We make mistakes if we go through it, but stepping out and leading is critically important," said Lennox; "we're working on our title nine issues and our sexual assault. I was seeing a number of campuses where […] people take leadership in that. Don't leave somebody behind. You have to be careful about that. Take the warnings. Be aware of what you're doing. Don't drink, particularly if you're underage. If you're of age, fine, but don't drink too much. In my experience, it is the alcohol that causes the most problems. That's one leadership area that I think people can step out on."

Photos Courtesy of @CreativeContInc

Dr. Lennox hopes to expand the university even further in upcoming years.

Photos Courtesy of @LakerLutzNews

Dr. Lennox plans to have an active relationship with the campus, faculty, and students.

Campus News

Tasty Books and Elizabethan History

By Craig Graves
Worldy Education Editor

On Sept. 30, the University welcomed critically acclaimed author Andrea Chaplin for the first Literature at Lunch session for the 2015 school year. Chaplin came to the University as part of the Florida Literary Arts Coalition (FLAC) tour, of which Saint Leo has been a member for four years.

"I have been a book editor for years," said Chaplin. "I've edited about 200 books and novels." Chaplin went on to explain that she has been a book reviewer for many other publications and magazines.

At the session held in TECO Hall in the Donald R. Tapia School of Business Building, Chaplin discussed her novel, *The Tutor*, and read a few excerpts from the book.

"Most of [Shakespeare's] life is undocumented," said Chaplin. "This is often called the 'lost years of Shakespeare.' It's the perfect terrain for fiction writers."

The Tutor, as Chaplin explained to the audience, is a fictitious account of William Shakespeare becoming a part-time tutor for an equally-fictitious wealthy Catholic family called the de L'Isles while England was under Protestant rule. The novel follows Katharine de L'Isle and her interactions with Shakespeare before he became famous. During that time, Shakespeare was not the playwright many have come to know, but rather a poet. As he is represented in Chaplin's novel, Shakespeare was quick-minded and sharp-tongued though not any less humorous than he seems in his plays and other writings. In a historical context, *The Tutor* is set during Queen Elizabeth I's reign about 100 years following the invention of the printing press and Shakespeare would have also been alive during the Bubonic Plague outbreaks that had swept across Europe.

After she finished reading the excerpts from her novel, Chaplin answered some audience questions. In response to these questions, Chaplin explained that the process of researching and writing *The Tutor* had not been easy, taking eight years to complete.

"I didn't start with research," said Chaplin, "I wanted to get Katharine and Shakespeare's relationship down first before I did research. Once that was done, I did the research as I went along."

Following the audience's questions, some copies of *The Tutor* were being sold with the opportunity to have Chaplin sign them.

Later that day, Chaplin visited Professor Gianna Russo's creative writing class to listen to students read parts of their work and to answer any questions they might have had regarding writing. During this question and answer session, Chaplin gave tips to the students to help get their creative juices flowing and to build upon their writing skills for plot and characterization.

The next Literature at Lunch event is going to take place sometime during the spring semester and will feature poet Aja Monet.

After the event, Chaplin signed copies of her novel and spoke to some members of the audience individually.

During Professor Russo's creative writing class, Chaplin shared her wealth of knowledge about writing and creative prompts. Of the advice she offered the students, she stressed the importance of playing around with ideas before finalizing their writing.

Photos Courtesy of Craig Graves

United by the Page: 7 Days, 7 Pages cont.

received the "Apostles Edition" of the Saint John's Bible, a gift which, according to the Saint John's Bible official website, was given during Pope Francis' visit to the library. This edition, which is one of twelve in existence, will be displayed in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. from Sept. 26 to Jan. 2 of next year.

The Saint John's Bible is undoubtedly characterized as a symbol of history, faith, and unity; a perfect representation of Pope Francis' visit to the United States. Saint Leo University's connection to the Pope and his beliefs will be immortalized by the Saint John's Bible, and the 7 Days, 7 Pages event.

"It's a small, yet beautiful gesture of the many institutions who proudly display the St. John's illuminated Bibles. Not only did many schools, including Saint Leo University send students, staff and faculty to see the Pope on his trip, others were able to show other signs of solidarity and celebration of the historic event," said Randall Woodard, Department Chair of Theology, Religion, and Philosophy.

Pope Francis, the current and 266th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, is currently embarking on a historic journey to the United States which began on Sept. 28. In celebration, anticipation, and preparation a week prior to the Pope's visit, institutions all around the world joined together in a rather metaphorical way – the 7 Days, 7 Pages Event. Every day from Sept. 21 to Sept. 28, the seven days leading up to Pope Francis' arrival, each of these institutions displayed a different page representing key scriptures and illustrations from the Saint John's Bible. Saint Leo University was one of these institutions.

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Saint Leo University, for its 125th Anniversary Year, received two volumes of the Saint John's Bible on loan: "Pentateuch" (the first five books of the Old Testament) and "Gospel & Acts" (the gospels and acts by John, Luke, Mark, and Matthew). These two volumes together are designated as part of the "Heritage Edition," which, according to Professor Carol Ann Moon, Reference and Instructional Outreach Librarian, is "a full-sized facsimile (copy) of the [official] Saint John's Bible." These two massive volumes, each one over 1,150 pages long, are currently on display in the entrance lobby of the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library, despite the end of the 7 Days, 7 Pages event on Sept. 28.

The "Heritage Edition" is not the only version of the Saint John's Bible; other institutions received and displayed different versions. For example, the Library of Congress (the first federal cultural institution in the United States) received the "Apostles Edition" of the Saint John's Bible, a gift which, according to the Saint John's Bible official website, was given during Pope Francis' visit to the library. This edition, which is one of twelve in existence, will be displayed in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. from Sept. 26 to Jan. 2 of next year.

The Saint John's Bible is undoubtedly characterized as a symbol of history, faith, and unity; a perfect representation of Pope Francis' visit to the United States. Saint Leo University's connection to the Pope and his beliefs will be immortalized by the Saint John's Bible, and the 7 Days, 7 Pages event.

"It's a small, yet beautiful gesture of the many institutions who proudly display the St. John's illuminated Bibles. Not only did many schools, including Saint Leo University send students, staff and faculty to see the Pope on his trip, others were able to show other signs of solidarity and celebration of the historic event," said Randall Woodard, Department Chair of Theology, Religion, and Philosophy.

Arts & Entertainment

Twenty-Five Years of Scares

By Jonah Robertson and Nicole Alvarez
Editor-in-Chief
Campus News Editor

Universal Orlando is home to many wonderful attractions, various forms of entertainment for young and old. However, every year, when the Halloween season rolls around, the park undergoes a grim transformation. Fog fills the streets of the park, actors dressed as monsters and fiends wander about, and blood and gore abound. This is, of course, Halloween Horror Nights, Universal's yearly Halloween event that lasts from Sept. 18 to Nov. 1. Large amounts of people flock to the park during this event, hoping to be scared, horrified, and to have a wonderful time. This year is particularly special as it marks the event's 25th anniversary, and as such Universal has done their best to make it a year to remember.

"The 25th year is bigger and better than ever" said Charles Grey, show director for Halloween Horror Nights. "We've worked really hard this year to bring you nine houses. Usually we have seven to eight, this year we have nine."

One of the nine horror-filled houses is based off and named after the movie "Insidious" . "Insidious" is one of the houses located furthest from the park entrance so by the time you get there, there may be a bit of a wait. Wait times for the regular lane could be anywhere from 15 minutes to 80 minutes, so be prepared. However, once you get to the entrance to this terrifying house, you will see a plain, white house. Don't be confused, that is "Insidious" and the danger lurking inside is anything but plain. It's up to you whether you can survive the nightmares waiting inside that aren't just a harmless movie anymore.

"Run: Blood, Sweat and Fears" is a house inspired by two original concepts that the design team behind Halloween Horror Nights had this year. The story of "Run" is that the people going through the house are unwilling participants in a death game show in which they have to run for their lives or be murdered by the various killers throughout the complex. When they first enter this house the game host announces the start of the game and as they go further through the house they encounter more and more people being murdered. While "Run" is a neat original concept from the design team, many parts of it fall flat, and tend not to be all that scary. It also felt the shortest of any of the houses.

"Body Collectors: Recollections" takes place in Shady Brook Asylum and features crazed lunatics looking for victims to gather as many body parts as they can. The design director, Charles Grey, is particularly fond of this house, mostly because of the entrance, which is the wintry land that the Asylum is located on. However, be warned that this house features a lot of blood and gore. One scene that you'll have to walk through shows one of the murderers ripping a woman's spine out of her back. If you're not careful you could wind up never leaving the Asylum. At least, not in one piece.

AMC's hit show "The Walking Dead" provides the inspiration for the next haunted house. As people progress through the house they will experience the events of the show's fifth season, full of memorable moments such as the escape from the Terminus complex, a location full of cannibals and criminals. Then zombies proceed to attack from all sides for the remainder of the house. This was one of the better houses this year, and it had quite a few exciting moments and memorable scares. Fans of the show are certain to enjoy it more, but anyone who can appreciate the horror of zombies will enjoy this attraction.

The haunted house based upon "The Purge" might be the biggest disappointment at the park. While the film presents an intense and horrifying concept, where for one night people are allowed to commit any crimes they wish, the house ends up just being a constant flow of disappointing attempts at scares. From actors shooting blasts of air to others stabbing fake corpses, there are more scenes going on around the people attending than there are involving them. The few actors that do actually jump out are placed in predictable spots, and simply are not all that scary. The biggest flaw with this house, however, has to be its overuse of strobe lighting. Because of the constantly flashing strobes, many parts of the house are almost impossible to enjoy, simply because it is very difficult to perceive what exactly is going on. Between excessive darkness in some areas, and excessive strobe lights in others, this is easily the worst house this year.

In contrast with the previous house, "Freddy vs. Jason" was perhaps the best house in this iteration of Halloween Horror Nights. Based around Freddy Krueger and Jason Vorhees, two horror icons, this house involves the two of them attacking from all sides, until they eventually start to fight each other. All of Jason's scares are particularly impressive, as they are placed in easily missed dark corners, and the actors playing Jason are all quite physically imposing, often towering over those attending. Almost all of the scares in this house are on point, and there's a surprise at the end that should catch even the most grizzled veteran of these sorts of events off guard.

Sadly the other three houses this year could not be reviewed due to time constraints, but Grey assures anyone interested in attending the event that they are all excellent. These three houses include "Asylum in Wonderland: 3D," "American Werewolf in London," and "25 Years of Monsters and Mayhem." "Asylum in Wonderland" involves a trip in an insane asylum, in which Alice is dealing with monsters and illusions from inside her mind, instead of the traditional events of "Alice in Wonderland." "American Werewolf" follows the story of the film of the same name, and is full of animatronics that,

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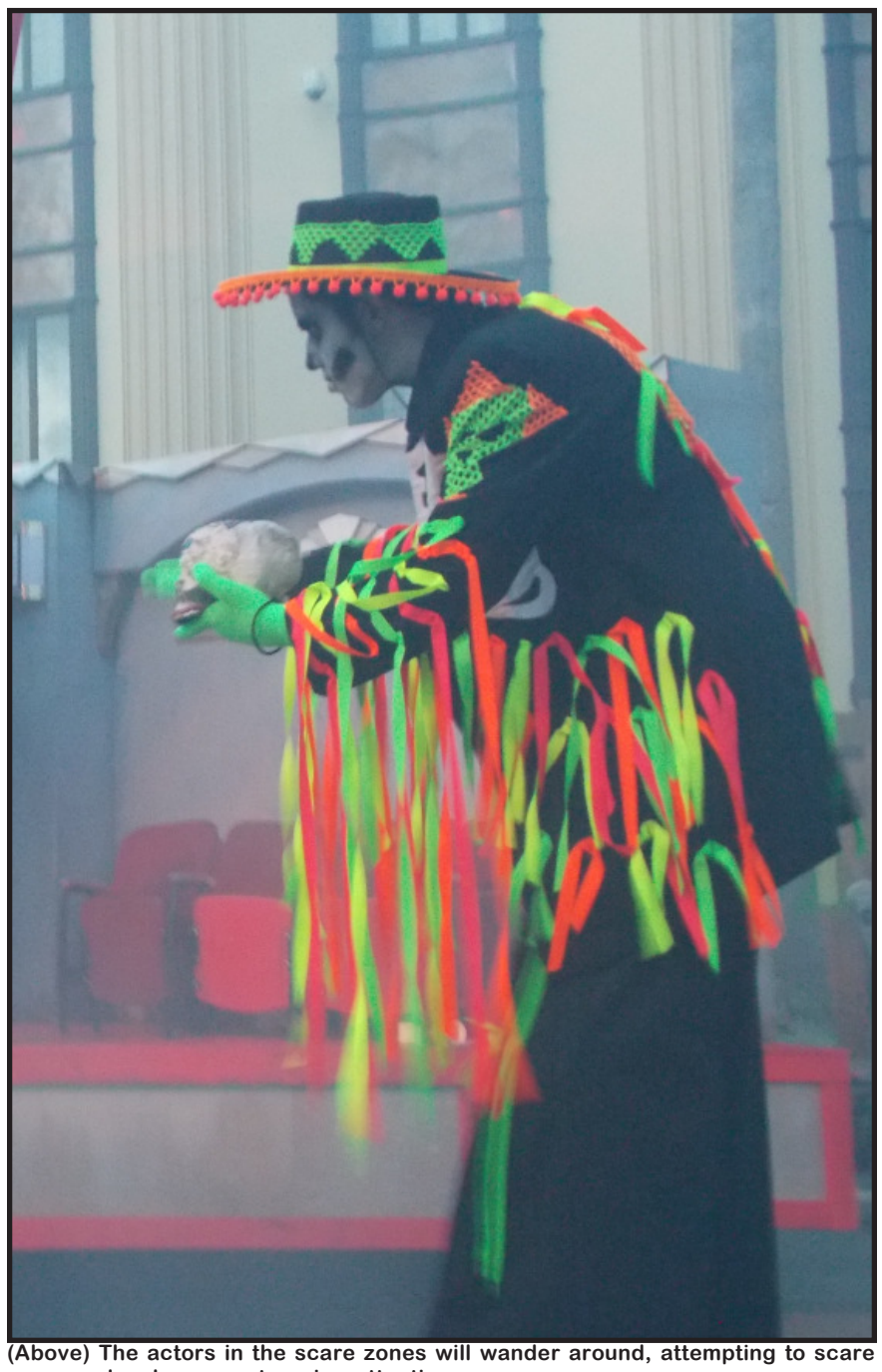
according to Grey, are sure to scare. Finally, "25 Years of Monsters and Mayhem" honors the past two and a half decades of Halloween Horror Nights, and involves monsters and scares from all throughout the event's existence.

One of the two shows that attendees of Halloween Horror Nights can see is "The Carnage Returns." This is a show all about Jack the Clown, his horrifying partner Chance, and his crazed followers. Together, Jack and his people put on a bloody show of death, laughter, and dancing for the audience's enjoyment. Jack's stage is set up right across from Mel's Drive In, there is no seating so you'll have to stand to watch the carnage on stage. Show times will be listed on the park map so if you miss the first show, don't worry, Jack will be back.

In contrast with the blood and violence in "The Carnage Returns," the other show that can be attended this year is full of laughs and references to common pop culture. "Bill and Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventure" takes the characters of Bill and Ted, from the popular 80s movie "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" and places them in the modern day. This show contains references to current events in politics, film, music, and just about every aspect of American culture, and it mocks all of them. It is quite funny at some parts, if quite immature. If the excessive gore of the other show seems unappealing, this one provides a more tame alternative.

If you want a break from the gore and horror of the houses, the shows, and the scare zones then five rides will be open during the event: "Transformers: The Ride – 3D," "Hollywood RIP Ride Rockit," "Revenge of the Mummy," "Men In Black Alien Attack," and "The Simpsons Ride."

Along with the houses, shows, and rides, there are also scare zones throughout the park that are full of actors prepared to terrify and delight those attending. Throughout the park there are zones fitting all styles of horror, from classic movie icons, to monsters, to serial kills, and even steampunk interpretations of fairytale characters. The last one is by far the most unique of the scare zones, but each is equally enjoyable, and provides solid entertainment as people wander between the haunted houses.



(Above) The actors in the scare zones will wander around, attempting to scare any people who are not paying attention.
(Left) Check out the interview with Charles Grey online at http://www.pride-online.net/

All Photos Courtesy of Jonah Robertson

Both of the live shows available this year have extravagant sets, full of pyrotechnics and spectacular lighting effects.

Sports

Tampa Bay: Expect Lightning to Strike Twice

By Matt Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

On June 15, the Tampa Bay Lightning skated in Chicago, watching the Blackhawks lift the Stanley Cup after defeating them in the decisive sixth game of the Stanley Cup Finals. Not even four full months later, the 2015-2016 season begins. With no major roster changes, the Lightning essentially return with the same team that finished 3rd in the regular season, and won the Prince of Wales trophy as Eastern Conference Champions the season before. While that tends to be a negative thing in most sports, the Lightning made the smart move, as their young team can grow together and improve further than what they did before.

Looking at the forwards, the Lightning have one of the best players in the world as their captain is Steven Stamkos. Returning after sustaining a broken leg the year before, Stamkos lead the team last year with 43 goals, the second highest total in all of the NHL. Accompanying him is Ryan Callahan, who finished with 54 points last season, and Jonathan Drouin; who nhl.com listed as one of the eight potential breakout players for the upcoming season. Potentially the most exciting is the further development of the three players known as "the triplets." Ondrej Palat, Tyler Johnson and Nikita Kucherov combine to be one of the most entertaining and productive lines in the NHL. Johnson, whose 72 points tied Stamkos for the most on the Lightning, should again center a line that will be a powerful weapon this year.

On defense, the outlook is also optimistic. Victor Hedman will line up with Anton Stralman to form a stout defensive top line. Hedman and Stralman, following up a season in which they combined for a +34, should remain a dominant presence against opponents. Hedman in particular is expected to make another leap in progress, akin to the breakout season he had last year.

In goal, Ben Bishop remains an outstanding last line of defense. Following a 40 win season, which was good for 4th in the league, Bishop played ably in the playoffs, even after suffering from a torn groin. If he is as healthy as he claims, Bishop should be able to improve his .916 save percentage which, while above average, was a drop off from his previous two seasons. Andrei Vasilevskiy, once he returns from vascular surgery to remove a blood clot, will back up Bishop. Vasilevskiy is developing into another world class goaltender, so the Lightning will have two highly talented goalies when he gets healthy.

Health, though, remains the biggest question mark for this team. Bishop's torn groin and Vasilevskiy's blood clot were recent developments that could potentially be nagging issues. Also, hockey teams always have injuries, so it falls upon the other players to pick up the slack should one of the stars go down. This is what hurt the Lightning two years ago, when Bishop got hurt and the team got swept out of that year's playoffs.

Another concern is the potential for distractions. Stamkos is on the last year of his contract, and the two sides have yet to come to an agreement in terms of an extension. As Stamkos is one of the premier centers in the world, he will command both a huge contract, and lots of attention throughout the season. If the extension is not taken care of, will a young Lightning team be able to handle the media? If they don't react well, the team might crumble under the spotlight, which will combine with the pressure of repeating their success from last year.

That said, the Tampa Bay Lightning should have another fantastic season. Expect them to contend for the President's Trophy for the best regular season record, and also to be major players in the hunt for the Stanley Cup. Don't be surprised if the city of Tampa schedules a parade down Channelside Drive next June.

Scores This Week

M Cross Country

10/2: 22nd of 27 teams Paul Short Invitational @Bethlehem, Pa.

7th of 12 teams Florida State Invitational @ Tallahassee, Fla.

W Cross Country

10/2: 30th of 35 teams Paul Short Invitational @Bethlehem, Pa.

9th of 12 teams Florida State Invitational @ Tallahassee, Fla.

M Golf

9/28: 5th of 16 - Rounds 1 & 2

9/29: 3rd of 16 - Round 3
Saint Leo Invitational
@ Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club

M Soccer

9/30: L 2-1 @ Rollins

W Soccer

9/30: L 3-2 Vs Rollins

W Volleyball

10/2: W 3-1 Vs Florida Tech

10/3: W 3-0 Vs. #6 Fla. Southern

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Photos From twitter@TBLightning

Great things are expected from Jonathan Drouin (left) and Steven Stamkos (right).